

VENOUS BLOOD SAMPLING

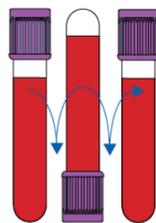
Order of Draw and Specimen Handling

| Order of draw | Color Coding | Tube Type | Synonyms | Recommended Inversions | Minimum clotting time | Centrifuge |
|----------------|---|--|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Blood culture |  | Anaerobic blood culture bottle | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | | Aerobic blood culture bottle | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Citrate |  | Sodium Citrate | Blue Top | 3-4 | N/A | N/A |
| Serum |  | BD SST (Serum with gel) | Red Top | 5-6 | 30 min | 10 min |
| |  | Serum with clot activator (silica particles) | Gold Top | 6 | 60 min | 10 min |
| Heparin |  | Lithium heparin | Green Top | 8-10 | N/A | Varies |
| |  | BD PST (Plasma with gel) | Mint Top | 8-10 | N/A | 10 min |
| Hematology |  | EDTA | Lavender Top | 8-10 | N/A | Varies |
| Trace Elements |  | Trace elements with K2 EDTA | Dark Blue Top | 8-10 | N/A | Varies |

LabNotes Tip

How to perform a tube inversion correctly:

A correct inversion is one complete turn of the wrist, back and forth



Note: Always follow your facility's protocol for order of draw

*When using a winged blood collection set for venipuncture and a coagulation (citrate) tube is the first specimen tube to be drawn, a discard tube should be drawn first. The discard tube must be used to fill the blood collection set tubing's "dead space" with blood but the discard tube does not need to be completely filled. This important step will ensure maintenance of the proper blood-to-additive ratio of the blood specimen. The discard tube should be a nonadditive or coagulation tube.

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